

To the Chairman and Members,
of the Buckfastleigh Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,

I submit hereunder my Annual Report for
1945:-

Vital statistics for the year 1945.

Population.	2563	
Live Births	42	(male 23, female 19)
		5 were illegitimate
Still Births	2	1 was illegitimate
Deaths	36	(male 16, female 20).

Rates per thousand civilian population

Birth rate.	16.4.	Birth rate England and Wales	16.1.
Death rate	14.	Deaths England and Wales	11.4.
Deaths of infants under 1 year.	3.		
Infantile mortality rate per 100 live births			71.4
ditto		ditto England and Wales	46.

Water Supply

This has continued to be satisfactory, except at Buckfast, whence complaints were frequently received that not only could no water be drawn from the taps during the day, but that on occasion, the tanks did not fill during the night and Messrs. Lemon & Blizzard of Plymouth were instructed by the Council to prepare a scheme for supplying Buckfast by a new main direct from the reservoir and this was under consideration at the end of 1945.

A short account of the water supply of the district may be of interest.

It is collected by underground pipes laid in a moorland source whence it is conveyed to the reservoir about half a mile above the town. Mains leading from this are laid in all the streets and nearly all the houses within the Urban District have a piped supply.

The main which supplies Buckfast is a 3 inch pipe rather more than 1 1/2 miles long, and for the latter portion of its course rises about 50 feet.

When first laid it was adequate, but during the years the number of houses supplied has more than doubled and the water being soft and slightly acid, tends to corrode the pipes.

In consequence, the supply to the houses at the end of the Buckfast main has been gradually failing, and during 1934-5 my Council considered many possible schemes for improving it, engaging the services of a water engineer to assist them.

In 1936 a plan to build an additional reservoir on the hill beyond the far end of the main, in order to supply Buckfast from that end, was submitted to the Ministry but after a public enquiry, was not approved.

An alternative scheme for increasing the pressure in the main was adopted and proved satisfactory for a time, but as more houses were built this also proved inefficient.

The outbreak of War stopped any further developments.

The supply from the source to the reservoir is ample and free from possibility of contamination. Bacteriological examinations are made periodically. A new installation for correcting its plumbo-solvency has been approved, and will be installed early next year, the former system of filtration through lime chippings having proved inefficient.

Sewage Disposal

The war stopped a complete reorganisation of the sewage disposal works, but it has been possible to avoid any contamination of the River Dart, and no complaints have been received from the Fishery Board.

It is hoped that it will be possible to proceed with the new Works at an early date.

Housing

My Council has inspected many possible sites for new housing schemes, and has acquired one which will accommodate about 100 houses. Plans for the first installment are under consideration.

Infectious Diseases.

One case of Scarlet Fever was the only notification during the year.

Immunisation.

I am able to report that more than 95% of the children over one year old, have been immunised against Diphtheria, parents being very co-operative.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S.R.Williams.

